GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:676
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2016
Tinnitus/Hearing Loss
Khadse Smt. Raksha Nikhil

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of a recent study report published on the increasing number of teenagers experiencing tinnitus, often a symptom of hearing loss; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has not received any report of research on teenagers experiencing tinnitus. However, as per the information made available by All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi, there are few newspaper reports on the issue on "Tinnitus in adolescents." These newspaper reports point to the study by Brazilian author Sanchez. The study evaluated the "Tinnitus in adolescents" and have found them to have higher prevalence and worse "Loudness discomfort levels." Suggesting it to be indicator for hearing loss would be a premature conclusion and even study has suggested so.

Another recent study in British Medical Journal (BMJ) open published recently analyses systematically all literature on tinnitus and hyperacusis in children and adolescents. Data on the prevalence of tinnitus and hyperacusis in children and young people vary considerably according to the study design, study population and research question with a variation from 4.7% to 74.9% (tinnitus) and from 3.2% to 17.1% (hyperacusis) in 25 articles. This review finds differences in tinnitus definitions, the tinnitus question used to establish prevalence and whether or not it has been tested if the child understands the question as the biggest bias for comparing studies. The lack of methodological consistency among studies indicates the necessity of examining the epidemiology of tinnitus and hyperacusis in children and adolescents with a set of standardised and consistent criteria.

AIIMS, New Delhi is coordinating the nationwide survey on prevalence and epidemiology of hearing loss (ICMR sponsored) and also impact of electromagnetic radiation on auditory and vestibular system (ICMR sponsored) in all age groups. The results would be available once the projects are completed.

(b): Not applicable.